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Urban District Council of Felling



Annual Report


OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1953

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OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1953

J. A. W. REID, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. (Glasgow),
Medical Officer of Health.

J. WEAR, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

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HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

Councillor T. P. S. PRUDHAM.

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor M. MALLOY.

Councillor R. BUTTERWORTH.

Councillor A. JOYCE.

„ T. W. ELLIOTT.

„ M. F. QUIGLEY.

„ E. M. FLEMING.

„ C. M. ROBERTS.

„ O. C. HENDERSON.

„ T. TERNENT.

„ Mrs. W. HUNTER.

„ N. TINDAL.

No. 2 Area Health Sub-Committee.

FELLING MEMBERS—Councillor J. BOYLE.

„ R. BUTTERWORTH.

„ Mrs. W. HUNTER.

„ C. M. ROBERTS.

„ N. TINDAL.

Joint Committee.

FELLING MEMBERS—Councillor J. SMITH, B.COM., J.P.

„ E. M. FLEMING.

„ M. MALLOY.

„ T. P. S. PRUDHAM.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

COUNCIL OFFICES,

FELLING-ON-TYNE.

*To the Minister of Health and to the Chairman and Members
of the Felling Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1953. The Report has been drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

In January, 1952, representations were made to the Minister of Health, under Section 112 of the Local Government Act, 1933, that the Borough of Jarrow and the Urban Districts of Felling and Hebburn should be united for the purpose of appointing a Medical Officer of Health.

The Jarrow, Hebburn and Felling United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Order, 1952, came into operation on the 1st September, 1952, and I took up my duties on the 1st April, 1953.

For the previous fifteen years Dr. W. D. Millar acted as part-time Medical Officer of Health to the Urban District. The period of this Report covers the last three months of his tenure of office, and I desire to thank him for his help and co-operation when I succeeded him.

The main features of the vital statistics are as follows : the Population, Birth Rate, Infantile Mortality Rate, and Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate increased, while the General Death Rate decreased.

The Population increased by 820 from last year's figure of 25,200 ; the natural increase (excess of births over deaths) was 174. The live Birth Rate of 17·3 per 1,000 of the population compares with 16·7 for the previous year. The Infantile Mortality Rate

increased to 28·9 per 1,000 live births from last year's figure of 28·4. The General Death Rate of 10·5 per 1,000 of the population is a fall from 11·3 in 1952. There were no deaths from maternal causes or the common childhood infections. The Birth, Death, and Infantile Mortality Rates compare favourably with the rates for the country as a whole. The most prevalent notifiable disease was Measles, with most of the cases occurring in the first quarter of the year. The incidence rate of Pulmonary Tuberculosis remained about the same, being 1·3 per 1,000 of the population as against 1·23 in 1952.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman, Members of the Committees, Officials of the Council, and the Staff of the Health Department for their understanding and co-operation since my appointment.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. W. REID, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION "A."

Statistics of the Area

(a) General Statistics.

Area of the Urban District in acres	....	....	3,405
Estimated Resident Population (mid-June, 1953)....			26,020
Number of Inhabited Houses	....	....	7,994
Number of Council Houses	....	....	3,612
Estimated Number of Sub-standard Houses		....	327
House Density (persons per house)	....	....	3.25
House Density (houses per acre)	....	....	2.34
Rateable Value....	....	....	£121,566
Sum represented by Penny Rate	....	....	£480

(b) Physical and Social Conditions.

(1) *Description of the Area.*

The shape of the Urban District is roughly a square. The northern boundary is formed by the River Tyne, whose banks are steep sided. Felling foreshore is about two miles long. The western and southern extents of the Urban District are the boundaries of Gateshead County Borough and of Washington Urban District, respectively. In the east the northern half of the Urban District abutts on to that of Hebburn Urban District and the southern half on to Boldon Urban District. Part of the southern boundary is formed by Gateshead Fell, which rises to about 600 feet above sea level. From here there is a gradual fall to the River.

Although primarily a mining and industrial area, there are some farms on the southern and eastern boundaries.

The main industries in the district are coal mining, engineering, ship repairing, printing and paper making, brick making, and the manufacture of paints and chemicals.

(2) *Employment in the Area.*

I am indebted to Mr. H. Ward, Manager, Employment Exchange, Felling, for the following figures on employment, unemployment, and disability in the area.

The following table shows the population structure of the Urban District :—

INDUSTRY	Males	Females	Total
Mining and Mining Products	1,261	77	1,338
Chemicals, &c.....	731	466	1,197
Metal Manufacture and Metal Goods	164	72	236
Engineering, Ship Repairing, &c.	1,448	51	1,499
Paper, Printing, &c.	118	198	316
Building, &c.	420	4	424
Transport, &c.....	128	19	147
Distributive	231	321	552
National and Local Government	291	41	332
Professional Services	53	170	223
Wood and Cork	323	225	548
Clothing	91	556	647
Food, Drink, and Tobacco	37	38	75
Miscellaneous	231	519	750
	<u>5,527</u>	<u>2,757</u>	<u>8,284</u>

(3) *Unemployment.*

The following table shows the number of unemployed persons at the end of the year :—

	Males	Females
Wholly Unemployed and Casuals	185	36
Temporarily Stopped	5	3

(4) *Disablement and Rehabilitation.*

Four hundred and four males and 24 females, who were resident in the Urban District, are registered under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944.

The following tables show the number of disabled persons who are unemployed in the district at the end of the year :—

UNEMPLOYED REGISTERED DISABLED PERSONS.

	Males	Females
(a) Suitable for ordinary employment—		
Ex-service	19	Nil
Non Ex-service	12	1
(b) Severely disabled persons classified as unlikely to obtain employment other than under special conditions—		
Ex-service	1	Nil
Non Ex-service	3	Nil

(5) *National Assistance.*

I am indebted to Mr. Bruce, the Area Officer, National Assistance Board, for the following information regarding residents in the Urban District at the end of the year.

The following categories of persons received National Assistance :—

Unemployed	....	....	....	73
Sick (Physical and Mental)	....	....	....	218
Retirement Pensioners (Contributory)	....	....	....	727
Non-contributory Old Age Pensioners	....	....	....	82
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	152
				<hr/>
				<u>1,252</u>

(c) **Vital Statistics.**

Live Births—

	Males	Females	Total
Total	229	220	449
Legitimate	223	215	
Illegitimate	6	5	
Birth Rate	....	....	17·3
Comparability Factor	....	....	0·97
Standardised Birth Rate	....	....	16·8
Illegitimate Births per 1,000 live births....	....	....	24·5

Still Births—

	Males	Females	Total
Total	3	9	12
Legitimate	3	9	
Illegitimate	—	—	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births....	....	....	26·0
Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Resident Population	....	....	0·46

Deaths—

	Males	Females	Total
All Causes	155	119	274
Death Rate	10·5
Comparability Factor	1·13
Standardised Death Rate	11·86
Maternal Death Rate	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
„ „ Enteritis and Diarrhœa	1
„ „ „ „ „ (under 2 years)	1
„ „ Influenza (all ages)	6
„ „ Cancer (all types)	50
„ „ Diphtheria (all ages)	Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age—

					Males	Females
Total	....	....	....	....	4	9
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	4	9
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	....	....	28·9
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			27·9
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	....	....	Nil

INFANT MORTALITY.

The chief cause of death of infants under 1 year of age was infection. It accounted for 50 per cent. of the deaths. Congenital deformity and prematurity were each responsible for one-quarter of the deaths.

Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1953.

Provisional Figures based on Quarterly Returns.

Rates per 1,000 Home Population.

	England and Wales	160 C.B.s and Great Towns, including London	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Admin. County	Felling Urban District
Births—					
Live Births	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5	17.3
Still Births	0.35	0.43	0.34	0.38	0.46
	*22.4	*24.8	*21.4	*21.0	26.0
Deaths—					
All Causes	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5	10.5
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ..	0.01	0.01	..	..	..
Diphtheria .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24	0.5
Influenza	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.23
Smallpox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis (inc. Polioencephalitis) ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	..
Pneumonia	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64	0.5
Notifications (Corrected)—					
Typhoid Fever .. ..	..	..	..	0.01	..
Paratyphoid Fever ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	..
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	..
Scarlet Fever	1.39	1.5	1.44	1.02	0.31
Whooping Cough ..	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.3	5.46
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	..	..
Erysipelas	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.038
Smallpox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09	9.68
Pneumonia	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73	0.65
Acute Poliomyelitis (incl. Polioencephalitis)—					
Paralytic	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07	..
Non-Paralytic	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.038
Food Poisoning	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38	..
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	*18.23	*24.33	*12.46	*28.61	6.5
Deaths—					
All Causes under 1 year of age	†26.8	30.8	24.3	24.8	28.9
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age.	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1	2.22

* Per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births.

† Per 1,000 Related Live Births.

Causes of Death in Felling Urban District, 1953.

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	10	2
„ Other .. .. .	..	1
Syphilitic Disease .. .. .	..	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .. .. .	..	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	6	2
„ „ Lung, Bronchus	10	1
„ „ Breast	1	4
„ „ Uterus .. .. .	..	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasm	10	13
Leukæmia, Aleukæmia .. .. .	..	1
Diabetes .. .. .	..	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	17	20
Coronary Disease, Angina	27	7
Hypertension with Heart Disease	4	2
Other Heart Disease	19	18
Other Circulatory Disease	7	7
Influenza	1	5
Pneumonia	7	6
Bronchitis	14	5
Other Diseases of Respiratory System .. .. .	..	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	2
Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhœa	1	..
Nephritis and Nephrosis .. .. .	..	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	..
Congenital Malformations .. .. .	..	2
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	10	9
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	..
All other Accidents	4	4
Suicide .. .. .	..	1
TOTAL (ALL CAUSES)	155	119

Principal Vital Statistics for Previous Years.

	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Population	26,020	25,200	25,190	25,280	25,420	25,310	24,770	24,560
Birth Rate (per 1,000 Population)	17.3	16.7	17.5	16.73	19.23	19.5	22.0	20.0
Death Rate (per 1,000 Population)	10.5	11.3	12.06	12.58	12.27	12.5	12.9	12.2
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)	28.9	28.4	27.1	35.46	26.58	36.5	45.75	67.0
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 Live and Still Births)	26.0	25.4	18.1	17.0	19.47	27.6	35.2	39.0
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live and Still Births)	Nil	Nil	4.3	Nil	Nil	Nil	3.52	1.95
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Case Incidence (per 1,000 Population)	1.3	1.23	2.85	1.02	1.37	1.58	1.0	1.14
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate (per 1,000 Population)	0.46	0.32	0.75	0.39	0.74	0.75	1.17	0.48

SECTION " B."

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

(a) Public Health Services.

(1) Staff.

J. A. W. REID, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health and Area Medical Officer.

The Medical Officer of Health is restricted from private practice and is a full-time officer employed by the Joint Committee, which consists of representatives of the Councils of the three County Districts. One-fifth of the Medical Officer's time is devoted to Durham County Council as Area Medical Officer for No. 2 Area Health Sub-Committee, which covers the Borough of Jarrow and the Urban Districts of Hebburn and Felling.

J. WEAR, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H., Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, Senior Sanitary Inspector, and Cleansing Superintendent.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector carries out the duties of Inspector under the Petroleum Acts and Means of Escape in Case of Fire, as well as his sanitary duties. He is also responsible for the collection and disposal of refuse, including salvage.

W. J. BLACK, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, Second Sanitary Inspector.

E. B. MILLER, A.R.San.I., Clerk (on National Service, R.A.F.).

THOMAS GRAHAM, Clerk, Pupil Sanitary Inspector.

ROBERT LUMSDEN, Rodent Operator.

(2) Laboratory Services.

The Public Health Laboratory in Newcastle, under Dr. Norton, carries out bacteriological examinations.

The following are particulars of specimens and samples examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle :—

DISEASES	Positive	Negative	Total
Diphtheria	—	4	4
Hæmolytic Streptococci	2	—	2
Sonne Dysentery	3	38	41
Sputum (T.B.).....	3	8	11
Salmonella Para Typhi	2	—	2
	<hr/> 10	<hr/> 50	<hr/> 60

(3) *National Assistance Act, 1948.*

SECTION 47.—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

Five men and four women were visited during the year by the Medical Officer. Two of these cases were admitted to hospital and the remainder given help in their homes.

A Court Order was necessary in the case of one woman. She was removed to hospital after a delay of some months.

SECTION 50.—Burial or Cremation of the Dead.

Two persons died during the year who had no known relatives, and burial had to be effected by the Council.

(4) *Refuse Collection and Disposal.*

Refuse collection is carried out by mechanical transport. Four C.K.3 10 cubic yard hydraulic tipping vehicles are in use ; one of these is used for other purposes but, with the increase in collection due to new housing, this is being brought more into use for refuse collection.

A once-weekly collection of house refuse is maintained throughout the year. There is a large-scale development of new housing at present being carried out in the area, and future plans include a further large estate. It is pointed out that with the development of these new estates and the present design and layout of housing sites little consideration appears to be given to the siting of the bin, with the result that the individual haul has been greatly lengthened, which means that the rate of collection has been slowed down. During the year 519,445 bins and 5,160 boxes were emptied, 19,630 miles were travelled, 3,655 gallons of petrol were used, and 4,246½ loads were collected and tipped.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.—Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping. A disused clay quarry situated in the Heworth Low Lanes is being filled in by this method. The longest haul is approximately two miles. When tipping is completed it is intended that the quarry be developed for recreational facilities.

Several fires, which were immediately extinguished, occurred during the year. In most cases these were due to unlawful disturbance of the tip, and a considerable number of successful prosecutions were obtained at the local Court.

SALVAGE.—Collection of miscellaneous salvage materials is still carried on. Kitchen waste was collected separately, the communal bin collection being in operation at the time, but this collection ceased in September when the processing plant under the control of the Corporation of Newcastle was closed down. Since then local pig keepers have collected kitchen waste, and their plants for processing have been approved by the Ministry.

GULLEY EMPTYING AND STREET SWEEPING.—A mechanical gulley emptier with a capacity of 500 gallons is in use in the area. Street sweeping is carried out partly by the gang method and partly by the use of a roadsweeper collector.

(5) *Rodent Control.*

A Rodent Operator is employed by the Health Department and deals with all rat and mice infestations, and sewer treatments are carried out as prescribed by the methods of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Disinfestation Branch). Close liaison is maintained with the Divisional Officers.

Routine visits and inspections are carried out and all complaints received are surveyed. When an infestation is discovered, the site and surrounding area are surveyed and pre-baited and, if required, poisoning is carried out. It is emphasised that great attention is paid to the pre-baiting and the operator always lays more points than are required as it has been found in practice that there is a tendency to minimise the number of points laid, and therefore one finds that the infestation is not completely cleared after poisoning, and one may then encounter a bait or poison-shy rodent which increases the difficulties of final eradication. Tests have been carried out during the year with various new poisons, including Tracking Dust, which was effective up to a point, but it is thought that more research will be required before such a method can be brought into full use. The basic poisons used are Zinc Phosphide and Red Squill, but Warfarin, Antu, and Arsenic are used in cases requiring a different poison. It has been found in practice that if an infestation of rats is treated with Zinc Phosphide, a good follow-up as a post-bait is Warfarin, and the remainder of the infestation, if there is any, do succumb to Warfarin within a short period. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that post-baiting should be carried out to ascertain if the infestation has been eradicated successfully. Sewer rat infestation showed an increase this year, and areas which have been free showed a slight build-up ; this has been dealt with and conditions are now back to normal. While most sewers are free from infestation at the sewage outfalls passing to the River Tyne, there are small isolated pockets of rat build-up which are treated as required.

(6) <i>Eradication of the Bed Bug.</i>	Council Houses	Other Houses
Number of Houses Infested....	4	.... 7

All infested dwellings are sprayed with insecticide containing D.D.T. and/or Gammexane ; in addition, Gammexane or D.D.T. smoke is used as required.

No general disinfestation scheme for Council houses and removals to Council houses is in force. On complaint of bug infestation, premises are visited and treatment is carried out.

The Council houses when vacated at the end of a tenancy are inspected by the Housing Department, and should any vermin be

seen then the attention of the Health Department is drawn to this condition and it is immediately treated before the new tenant takes possession.

(7) *Other Infestations.*

The following are details of infestations dealt with during the year. Complaints are often received of beetle infestations, &c., and powders containing D.D.T. or Gammexane are issued on request, and in serious cases the dwellings are actually treated by the Health Department staff.

Furniture Beetle ....	....	....	....	23
Beetles ....	....	....	....	28
Flies ....	....	....	....	2
Fleas ....	....	....	....	4
Miscellaneous ....	....	....	....	6

It is noted that there is an increase in Furniture Beetle infestation. Dwellings which previously have been notified as having an infestation of Furniture Beetle have again been inspected and treated at various times during the year. The public are becoming increasingly aware of the dangers of the Furniture Beetle and notifications are being received for treatment to be carried out. Where the infestation is severe it is recommended that affected woodwork be removed and replaced with suitable wood. Spraying is carried out using suitable insecticides ; in slight cases injection of the holes with a hypodermic syringe containing insecticide has proved most effective. It has been noted that the re-treatment of infested dwellings does show a decrease in the amount of infestation, and this re-treatment is carried out yearly until the infestation has been abated.

(b) **Local Health Authority Services.**

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for details of the personal health services which are provided by Durham County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946, within the Urban District.

The following clinics are held at The Clinic, St. Alban's Villa, Crow Hall Lane :—

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN—

SECTION 22.

Ante-Natal Clinic.

Sessions : Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

The following figures show the number of expectant mothers who attended the clinics, and the number of visits which these mothers paid to the clinics during the year :—

Number of Mothers ....	....	....	262
Attendances ....	....	....	947

Post-Natal Clinic.

Sessions : Friday mornings (second and fourth in month).

Twenty-four mothers attended the clinic on one or more occasions. The total number of attendances during the year was 31.

Birth Control.

Session : Friday mornings (second and fourth in month).

Advice was given to 52 mothers on medical grounds.

Child Welfare.

Sessions : Wednesday mornings (weekly) ; Friday mornings (first, third, and fifth in month).

The following table shows the number of infants and toddlers who attended the clinic, and the number of visits these children made to the clinic throughout the year :—

NO. OF CHILDREN			ATTENDANCES		
Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-5 years	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-5 years
256	53	124	1,248	96	193

Artificial Light Clinic.

Sessions : Monday and Friday afternoons weekly.

One hundred and forty-three mothers and children attended the clinic during the year. The total number of attendances during the year was 1,602.

MIDWIFERY—SECTION 23.

There are three County Midwives in Felling. No midwives practice privately in the area. During the year they attended 267 confinements. Two hundred and sixty-two live births and five still births were notified, 267 expectant mothers had their babies at home, and 181 in hospital.

HEALTH VISITING—SECTION 24.

Three Health Visitors serve the Urban District. The following domiciliary visits were paid during 1953 :—

Maternity and Child Welfare	....	....	6,342
Tuberculosis....	....	....	839
Mental Deficiency	....	....	115
Schools	....	....	65
Child Health	....	....	20
TOTAL	....	....	<u>7,381</u>

The percentage of ineffective visits made was 18·4.

HOME NURSING—SECTION 25.

Two whole-time nurses were employed during the year. They attended 305 patients, 160 being medical cases and 145 surgical cases. Three hundred and five new cases were visited in the year. The total number of visits paid to all patients was 5,816.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION—SECTION 26.

The following tables give the number of children vaccinated and immunised at the clinics and by the doctors in the Urban District :—

VACCINATION.					RE-VACCINATION.		
Under 1 year	1-5 years	5-15 years	15 years and over	TOTAL	1-15 years	15 years and over	TOTAL
127	10	2	11	150	1	13	14

IMMUNISATIONS.

PRIMARY

Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	TOTAL
172	94	12	6	7	10	1	302

RE-REINFORCING INJECTIONS

Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	TOTAL
—	—	—	—	146	70	1	217

AMBULANCE SERVICE—SECTION 27.

The Municipal Borough of Jarrow and Urban Districts of Felling and Hebburn are served by the Hebburn Ambulance Control, which is manned by four clerk-telephonists maintaining a 24-hour service. The three areas are covered primarily by vehicles from the Hebburn Depot, which has an establishment of one head driver, 27 drivers, and eight ambulances. In addition, vehicles from neighbouring depots are utilised as and when necessary, either to reinforce or economise in the transport of patients in the area.

Calls on Service	PERSONS CARRIED			Mileage
	Stretcher	Sitting	TOTAL	
10,325	3,938	21,143	25,081	128,908

Total Journeys, 7,796.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE—SECTION 28.

Cases discharged from hospital and requiring after-care are treated by the Home Nurses or supervised and advised by the Health Visitors. Sickroom equipment, such as urine bottles, bed pans, bed rests, air cushions, mattresses, and rubber sheeting can be had on loan. During the year 82 persons received loaned equipment.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE—SECTION 29.

Sixty-eight Home Helps were employed in the Urban District during the year, and they attended 186 cases.

Cases who received service during 1953 :—

Old Age Pensioners	....	....	....	125
Sickness	....	....	....	28
Tuberculosis....	....	....	....	5
Maternity	....	....	....	28
				186

(c) Hospital Services.

The local hospital services are administered by the Gateshead and District Hospital Management Committee on behalf of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. There are no hospitals in the Urban District. The following hospitals serve the district :—

Hospital				Type
QUEEN ELIZABETH	....	....	....	General and Maternity.
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, GATESHEAD	....			Children.
BENSHAM	....	....	....	Chronic Sick.
SHERIFF HILL	....	....	....	Infectious Diseases.

Chest Clinic, Greenesfield House, Gateshead.

Sessions : Monday to Friday, 9 to 12 noon (all sexes).

Venereal Diseases Clinics.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for details of patients within the area who have been attending the clinics at South Shields and Newcastle.

CLINIC	Syphilis		Gonorrhœa		Non-Venereal	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Newcastle	—	2	3	—	13	1
South Shields	—	—	—	—	3	—

Sessions are held as follows :—

GENERAL HOSPITAL, NEWCASTLE.—Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon ; 3 to 7 p.m. ; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SOUTH SHIELDS, STANHOPE ROAD CLINIC.—Males : Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. ; Tuesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. ; 5 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Females : 5 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Mass Miniature X-Ray.

The mobile Mass Radiography Unit No. 1A, which is based on Newcastle General Hospital, paid a visit to St. John's Hall, Felling, at the end of April.

The Secretary of the Unit has kindly given the following information about the persons attending :—

Categories				Nos.
Members of the General Public	....	....	....	402
Schoolchildren	....	....	....	253
Works Employees	....	....	....	36
Teachers	....	....	....	4
Doctors' Patients	....	....	....	3
TOTAL				702

Two schoolchildren and two adults were referred to the Chest Clinic for further investigation.

In spite of the wide publicity given, the response was disappointing.

Blood Transfusion.

The area is served by the Unit stationed in Newcastle. Sessions for donating blood are arranged at regular intervals.

(d) Executive Council.

There are eleven Medical Practitioners practising in the Urban District.

SECTION "C."

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

1. (a) *Water Supply.*

With the exception of a caravan dwelling situated in a small disused quarry in the south-west part of the area, a smallholder's cottage situated on high ground in the south part of the area, and a railway signalman's cottage near the southern boundary, the area is supplied with water generally from the mains of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. A small portion of the area in the south-east part of the district adjoining the Hebburn boundary is supplied with water from the mains of the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company.

- (i) The supply to the area on the whole is satisfactory in quality and quantity.
- (ii) Regular examinations were made of the supply.
- (iii) There is little likelihood of plumbo solvent action.
- (iv) No complaint of impure supply was received.

(b) *Drainage and Sewerage.*

Work was started early in 1953 on the sewage disposal works and good progress has been made. It is anticipated that a portion of the works will be in operation about September, 1954.

2. *Rivers and Streams.*

The River Tyne is the only large waterway and serves as a common sewer for the many townships along its banks. The other stream running through this district is known as the River Don.

3. *Closet Accommodation.*

There are approximately 7,792 water-closets and 32 ash-closets. The number of ash-closets will disappear as further clearance of unfit property takes place.

SHOPS ACT.

Two hundred and nineteen visits were made during the year.

CAMPING SITES.

- | | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| 1. The number of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | Nil |
| 2. Number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by L.A. under Section 269 P.H. Act, 1936 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | Nil |
| 3. The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during 1953 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | Nil |

SMOKE NUISANCE.

Nuisance in this district is sometimes caused by fumes discharged from pitheaps. Two collieries—one situated in the South Ward and one in the East Ward of the district—have each a heap emitting sulphurous fumes when the wind is in a certain direction, and causes discomfort and annoyance to the inhabitants in this and adjoining districts.

Informal action was taken in two cases to abate smoke nuisance at factories, and no further complaints were received.

SWIMMING POOLS.

There are no Public Baths or Swimming Pools within the Urban District.

SCHOOLS.

A survey is being made of the sanitary and washing facilities in schools in the area.

The schools in the area are under the control of the County Council of Durham.

Defects Found.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred by H.M. Inspector.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)..	....	....	....	....
Overcrowding (S.2.) ..	....	....	....	....
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.) .. ..	....	....	....	....
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.) .. ..	....	....	....	....
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.) .. ..	....	....	....	....
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)—				
Insufficient	1	1	....	....
Unsuitable or defective	4	4	....	....
Not separate for sexes..	....	....	....	....
Other Offences	1	1	....	....
Total	6	6	....	....

Factories Act, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH, INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

PREMISES. (1)	Number on Register. (2)	Inspections. (3)	NUMBER OF Written Notices. (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	8	....	....
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	59	79	6	....
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	1	....	....	....
Total	66	87	6	....

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

The following are details of notices served under the Public Health and Housing Acts :—

	PUBLIC HEALTH ACT				HOUSING ACT			
	Informal Notices		Statutory Notices		Informal Notices		Statutory Notices	
	Served	Complied with	Served	Complied with	Served	Complied with	Served	Complied with
Main Roofs repaired	51	52	..	..	9	6	1	1
Off-shoot Roofs repaired	27	24	..	..	3	4	2	2
Chimney Stacks repaired	35	42	..	..	3	4	..	..
Eaves Gutters repaired or renewed	42	56	..	..	13	12	2	2
Rain-water Pipes repaired or renewed	17	17	..	..	8	8	1	1
Soil Pipes repaired or renewed	2	1	..	..	3	3	..	..
Pointing repaired	76	83	..	..	26	27	6	8
Brickwork repaired	11	7	..	..	..	..	..	..
Window Woodwork repaired or renewed	12	10	..	..	4	3	..	..
Sash Cords renewed	23	12	..	..	6	6	1	3
Floors repaired or renewed	18	19	..	..	2	1	3	..
Sub-floor Ventilation provided	12	13	..	..	2	4	3	3
Handrails provided or repaired	3	7	..	..	3	1	..	..
Door Woodwork repaired or renewed	16	21	..	..	6	3	1	1
Scullery Benches repaired or renewed	6	2	..	..	4	3	..	..
Woodwork (Miscellaneous) repaired or renewed	13	10	..	..	4	3	1	..
Wall Plaster renewed	66	57	..	..	16	16	4	3
Ceiling Plaster renewed	18	18	..	..	2	2	1	1
Ranges repaired or renewed	12	6	..	..	2	..	..	..
Sinks replaced .. .. .	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sink Waste Pipes repaired or renewed	15	13	..	..	2	4	..	..
Water Service Pipes repaired.. .. .	13	13	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yard Paving repaired	10	10	..	..	3	2	2	2
Yard Gullies repaired	5	6	..	..	1	..	1	1
Outbuilding Roofs repaired	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
W.C. Roofs repaired	14	14	..	..	1	1	1	1
„ Brickwork repaired	6	6	..	..	2	1	..	2
„ Doors repaired or renewed	9	12	..	..	2	1	..	1
„ Basins refixed or renewed	6	4	..	..	..	..	1	..
„ Flush Pipes repaired	4	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
„ Seats repaired or renewed	9	5	..	..	1	1	..	..
„ Cisterns renewed	11	9	..	..	1	..	..	..
Ash Closets repaired	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Accumulations removed	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Drains cleansed and repaired.. .. .	28	21	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dust Bins renewed	98	58	..	..	..	..	..	..
Food Stores provided	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Inadequate Ventilation.. .. .	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Washing Accommodation	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
	698	644	..	..	129	116	31	32

SECTION " D."

Housing in the Area

There were 7,994 inhabited houses in the Urban District at the end of 1953. The Council owns 3,612 houses.

House Erection.

A total of 177 new houses was built during the year, comprising 164 Council and 13 private.

House Inspections.

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during the year :—

Number of houses inspected under the Public		
Health Act ....	....	378
Number of inspections under the Housing Acts		521
Number of totally unfit houses		327
Houses rendered fit by Informal Notice		221
Houses rendered fit by Statutory Notice		6

House Demolitions.

The following table shows the houses dealt with under Sections 11 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, and the progress made in rehousing the tenants :—

	CONDEMNED		REHOUSED	
	Houses	Persons	Houses	Persons
Section 11	20	72	11	36
Section 12	4	12	4	9
	24	84	15	45

Eight undertakings by owners not to use houses for human habitation were received. Twenty-two persons resided in these houses.

Housing Survey.

In anticipation of the requirements of the new House and Rent Bill, a preliminary survey of the houses in the Urban District was conducted.

The following details give an estimate of the extent of Slum Clearance in Felling :—

HOUSES FOR IMMEDIATE CLEARANCE—

West Ward	246
East Ward	38
Coldwell Ward	15
North Ward	9
Pelaw Ward	1
Central Ward	1

310

CLEARANCE DURING FIVE YEARS PERIOD—

North Ward	44
Coldwell Ward	42
Central Ward	12
Pelaw Ward	11
East Ward	8
South Ward	10

127

CLEARANCE DURING TEN YEARS PERIOD—

North Ward	39
West Ward	56
Coldwell Ward	73
Central Ward	19
East Ward	107
West Ward	91

385

Future Housing.

In 1953 the Council approved the Town Map prepared under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

The outstanding feature of the map is the development of agricultural land on the southern boundary for 3,000 houses. This provides for the housing of overspill from neighbouring regions, especially Gateshead County Borough.

The first stage of this development has commenced, and at the end of 1953 three hundred houses were in process of erection on the Leam Lane Site.

No expansion of housing in the older parts of the Urban District, viz., Bill Quay, Pelaw, Felling Shore, and Windy Nook, is planned.

The central area of the town around the main shopping site will be redeveloped.

During 1953 Gateshead County Borough promoted a Private Bill for boundary extension involving over 800 acres of Felling Urban District. The House of Lords ruled that 80 acres, previously offered by this Council, should be transferred to Gateshead. This portion of the Urban District is already built up with houses constructed by Gateshead Corporation.

SECTION "E."

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supply.

MILK

(SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED)
REGULATIONS, 1949.

Sixteen licences to dealers to use the special designation, "Pasteurised," and 77 licences to dealers to use the special designation, "Sterilised," were issued during the year.

Four supplementary licences for "Pasteurised" milk and two for "Sterilised" milk were issued during the year.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

There are three licensed slaughter-houses in the area. None are in use as all animals are slaughtered in the Government centralised slaughter-houses in Newcastle. One slaughter-house is used as a meat receiving and distribution depot.

Regular visits have been paid to food-preparing premises during the year.

UNFIT FOOD.

The following foodstuffs were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption; a quantity of food condemned was used for animal feeding, or returned for reconditioning for manufacturing purposes; the remainder was disposed of by tipping at the Council's controlled tip. No special examination of a store or a consignment of food was made during the year.

FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED, 1953.

			lb.	oz.	
H.Q. Beef (English)	....	....	195	8	Bone Taint.
F.Q. Beef ( " )	....	....	20	0	" "
H.Q. Beef ( " )	....	....	13	8	Abcesses
H.Q. Beef (Imported)	....	....	167	0	Bone Taint.
Veal (English)	....	....	88	0	Decomposition.
Lamb (New Zealand)	....	....	66	0	"
" ( " )	....	....	67	0	Mould Formation.
Sow Pork (English) (Man.)	....	....	34	0	Bone Taint.
Ox Tails (Imported)	....	....	30	0	Decomposition.
Brisket Beef	....	....	6	5	"
Sausages	....	....	16	8	"
"	....	....	3	14	Mould Formation.
Flour	....	....	12	0	Water Damage.
Coconut	....	....	130	0	Deterioration.
Vermicelli	....	....	12	0	"

Tinned Goods—

		Tins	lb.	oz.
Meats (various) ....	....	122	182	14
Ham ....	....	25	204	4
Veal ....	....	13	71	4
Tongues ....	....	7	32	10
Soups ....	....	11	9	9
Fruits (various) ....	....	282	342	12
Vegetables ( „ ) ....	....	127	113	0
Tomatoes ....	....	150	177	8
Fish (various) ....	....	2	1	2
Jam ....	....	7	6	15
Milk ....	....	33	31	15
Miscellaneous ....	....	5	4	11

784

Total weight of foodstuffs surrendered :—

18 cwt., 1 st., 10 lb.

ICE-CREAM.

No. of producers 1

No. of premises where ice-cream is sold 43

Premises are regularly and frequently inspected, and samples of ice-cream are examined periodically.

CLEAN FOOD EDUCATION.

No Clean Food Guild has been established in Felling. Organised lectures have not been carried out to the trades concerned on the importance of clean food handling as it has been found that more can be accomplished by personal contact with the personnel in the shops than by an organised address. It is gratifying to note some improvement in the standard of the personal hygiene since this instruction and advice has been given regularly. Lectures by the Chief Sanitary Inspector on food poisoning and kitchen hygiene were given to the Supervisors and Kitchen Staff of the Durham County School Meals Service at Jarrow. A further lecture and demonstration of the common insects and parasites infesting food and food premises was given. Show cases with insects were loaned by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Disinfestation Branch), and the methods of treatment of infested premises were explained and details given of precautions to be taken to prevent infestation. A lecture on food hygiene was also given to the Supervisors of the industrial canteens in the Tyneside area. This lecture was given in co-operation with the Factory Canteen Adviser of H.M. Inspectorate of Factories.

FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.

The following table gives the types of food premises in the Urban District :—

Type						Number
Bakers	....	....	....	....	....	3
Butchers		....	....	....	....	24
Cafes	....	....	....	....	....	4
Confectioners	....	....	....	....	....	17
Dairies	....	....	....	....	....	1
Fish Fryers	....	....	....	....	....	11
Fishmongers	....	....	....	....	....	2
Fruiterers	....	....	....	....	....	13
General Dealers		....	....	....	....	65
Grocers	....	....	....	....	....	29
Registered Ice-cream Retailers				....	....	43
Registered Ice-cream Producers				....	....	1

SECTION "F."

Prevention and Control Over Infectious and Other Diseases

The number of infectious diseases notified during the year dropped from 489 in 1952 to 427. The incidence of new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 1.3 per 1,000 of the population.

Increases which occurred on the annual figures for 1952 were Whooping Cough (33), Scarlet Fever (24), Dysentery (2), Puerperal Pyrexia (1). Decreases occurred in the notifications of the following diseases : Anterior Poliomyelitis (27), Pneumonia (19), Measles (15), Food Poisoning (8), Meningococcal Infections (3), and Erysipelas (2).

Scarlet Fever.

Eight cases were notified during the year. None were admitted to hospital.

Erysipelas.

One case occurred during 1953.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

The three cases which were notified occurred in domiciliary practice.

Measles.

This was the most prevalent disease during the year. There were 252 notifications compared with 267 last year. Five cases were admitted to hospital. These cases ranged from the age of 14 months to 5 years. About one-third of the cases occurred in schoolchildren, but notification of one adult case was received.

Whooping Cough.

There was a rise in the number of cases notified from 109 in 1952 to 142 in 1953. About two-thirds of the cases occurred in pre-schoolchildren, divided equally between the yearly age groups. One case was admitted to hospital.

Diphtheria.

No cases were notified during the year. Forty-five 5ccs. bottles of A.P.T. were distributed to Medical Practitioners in the Urban District.

Pneumonia.

Eighteen cases were notified, three were in pre-school children and nine over the age of 60 years.

Dysentery.

Two cases occurred during the year. They were isolated cases which responded rapidly to treatment.

Poliomyelitis.

One Non-Paralytic case was notified during the year.

Last year's report stated that seven children still had some residual paralysis, and one young adult was still in hospital, as a result of their infection in the summer of 1952. The follow-up in June, 1954, of these children reveals that the two boys with residual facial paralysis in June, 1953, have now almost completely recovered, there being a slight ptosis of the eyelids. In the case of the boy with paralysis of his shoulder muscles, he has still some degree of weakness. Of the four cases with leg muscle paralysis, three now wear short calipers and attend school, the other boy does not wear a support but may need operative treatment later.

The young adult who had generalised paralysis and was still in hospital one year ago has now returned home. She has some paralysis of both legs but can walk short distances.

Food Poisoning.

In October, 42 persons were investigated for suspected Food Poisoning. All had partaken of a canteen meal three days earlier which consisted of cold meat, salad, and milk pudding. Twenty-four persons had no upset after the meal. Of this number 19 had meat, salad, and milk pudding; four had milk pudding and salad but no meat; and one had meat and salad and no milk Pudding. There was a wide variation in the incubation period, symptoms, and duration of symptoms of the 18 persons (8 females and 10 males) who were unwell. One half of the persons affected had an incubation period of between 24 and 36 hours. Two males and two females complained of symptoms in approximately 12 hours. The longest duration of symptoms was 96 hours, and the shortest six hours. Ten persons were unwell for periods between 24 and 48 hours. Sixteen of the 18 unwell persons complained of three of the following common symptoms of Food Poisoning, namely, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, and tiredness. Laboratory tests of such food remnants as were available could not establish the cause of the illness. The food handlers in the canteen were all free from infection.

Tuberculosis.

The total number of cases notified during the year was 34 Pulmonary and four Non-Pulmonary. This is an increase on the notifications received in 1952 and gives an incidence of 1.3 cases per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 1.23 in 1952. The age group of greatest incidence in both sexes was between 15 and 25 years.

Tuberculosis—New Cases and Mortality for 1953.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1— 5	....	1	1	....	....	....	....	1
5—15	2	3	....	1	....	....	....	....
15—25	7	5	....	1	....	....	....	....
25—35	4	3	....	....	1	1	....	....
35—45	2	2	1	....	1	....	....	....
45—55	1	....	....	....	3	1	....	....
55—65	2	1	....	....	3	....	....	....
65 and upwards	1	....	....	....	2	....	....	....
Totals	19	15	2	2	10	2	....	1

Table showing Age Incidence, &c., from Notifiable Diseases during the year

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED (Corrected Figures)											Total Cases	Admitted to Hospital
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-60	60-	
Scarlet Fever	1	2	....	4	....	1	....	....	....	8	3
Measles	38	27	47	37	88	....	....	1	....	....	252	5
Whooping Cough	18	19	20	22	46	....	....	....	....	....	142	1
Pneumonia	1	1	....	....	....	....	....	2	3	1	17	6
Dysentery	1	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	....	3	....
Erysipelas	1	1	1
Poliomyelitis	1	....	....	....	1	1

